

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Housing and Neighborhood Development

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Many of our Bloomington neighborhoods are fortunate to have people who spend numerous hours working on projects and issues because quality of life in their neighborhood is such an important component for them.

The City of Bloomington's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) offers staff, programs, grants and services to help strengthen neighborhoods. The enclosed 2006 Neighborhood Calendar provides a snapshot of the programs and funding available to neighborhoods. The following articles highlight the neighborhoods that have used 2005 Small and Simple Grant funds to build community.

Bryan Park Neighborhood Association

Submitted by Jan Sorby, BPNA President

Project: Welcome to the Neighborhood Kits

Funding: \$600.00

Even before many "Welcome to the Neighborhood kits" have reached the hands of new neighbors in the Bryan Park Neighborhood, they are proving to be a successful community builder.

About 50 years ago, Mary Lou Mitchell was the recipient of a "welcome basket." At that time, it was a common practice by the City of Bloomington's Welcome Wagon to greet each new homeowner to the city with a basket full of helpful items and coupons to locally owned stores. This practice left such a deep and warm impression on Mary Lou that she wanted to reinstate this gracious practice through Bryan Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA) in conjunction with the City's HAND office through a Small and Simple grant. Cleary, Mary Lou has felt a part of this neighborhood and has actively participated since.

Patrick Siney, a neighbor who works with a locally owned advertising business, cut a template of the BPNA logo and spray painted 30 buckets. This would have been cost prohibitive to produce without the donation of his time, talents and experience. Filling the baskets with cleaning products, playing cards, crayons for kids and emergency items was easy and economical at the local dollar store.

One of the outstanding features in the neighborhood is the variety of adjacent neighborhood-supporting businesses. After identifying about 40 businesses, the BPNA sent letters offering to add coupons to the Welcome Buckets. BPNA also included City of Bloomington information and added a few "starter" trash stickers for both yard and household waste. Working with the businesses has been a community-building experience in the best kind of way as it is a win-win situation for both new neighbors and the businesses.



Cynthia Hoffman (left) received the first "Welcome kit" from Mary Lou Mitchell

Crestmont Neighborhood

Project: National Night Out Celebration

Funding: \$1,000

The Crestmont community hosted an annual National Night Out community-wide celebration to "take back the neighborhood" from crime and drugs this year on August 2nd.

This year The Crestmont Resident Council worked hard on in-kind donations for the event and managed to leverage three dollars to every one grant dollar received.

The event hosted a plethora of social service agencies, local organizations, City of Bloomington Fire and Police Departments, Bloomington Township Fire Department, Ivy Tech, and local faith community groups. WFHB provided a live broadcast and furnished music for the evening. The air was filled with music, laughter and great conversations.

Youth of the community were treated to activities, hamburgers, hot dogs and a lot of goodies. The evening was topped off with a walk through the neighborhood led by the Bloomington Police Department bicycle division and youth with decorated bikes.

Eastside Neighborhood

Molly O'Donnell, Eastside Neighborhood Association

Project: Eastside Neighborhood Brochure

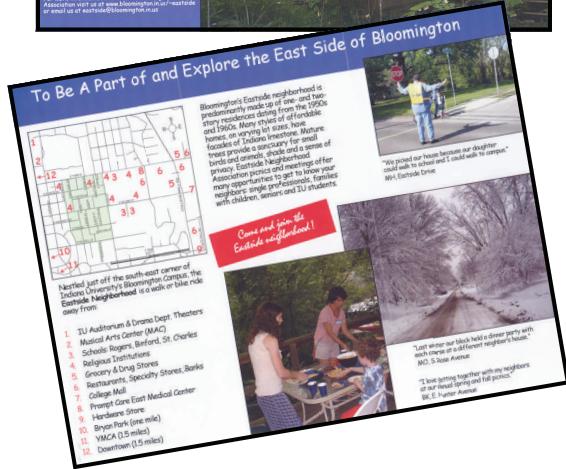
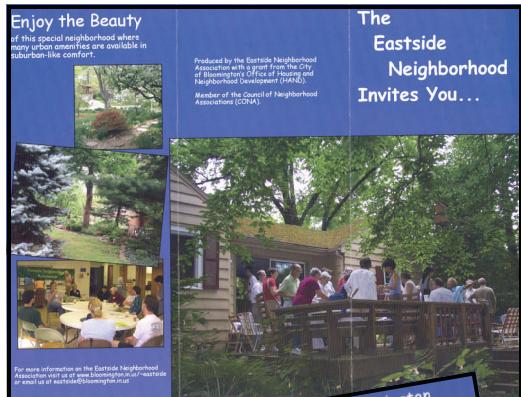
Funding: \$500.00

Ten or so Eastside neighbors (the association's steering committee) got together last winter to discuss various issues facing the neighborhood including how Eastside might promote our neighborhood to people looking for owner-occupied homes.

One idea that arose was to create a promotional brochure. We brainstormed about whom the target audience would be, what the brochure should say, etc. and several people offered photographs of the neighborhood. We received the Small & Simple Grant just before our spring meeting, and were able to put together a draft brochure for member input.

Many hours of work during the spring by several dedicated people resulted in a beautiful brochure, which we were able to share at our fall meeting and picnic. We will distribute brochures through the Chamber of Commerce, Welcome Center, hotels, local real estate agents and perhaps the Farmers' Market. Brochures have also been given to neighbors to distribute through their workplaces or University departments for inclusion in welcome packets for new faculty and staff.

It is wonderful to have this positive tool for promoting the neighborhood!

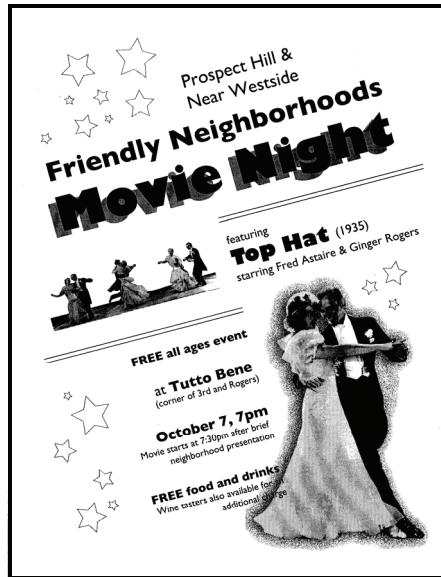


Prospect Hill , Maple Heights and Near West Side Neighborhoods

Sandi Clothier, Near West Side

Project: Friendly Movie Night

Funding: \$500.00



The Prospect Hill, Maple Heights and Near West Side neighborhoods came together to sponsor an evening at Tutto Benne with a classic movie and refreshments.

What a great way to come together, get to know your neighbors and build some community spirit!

What makes for a great community - is it the great restaurants, the ability to get around town easily; is it the different modes of transportation available, the services available?

All of these are important, but without the people who make up the community it would be very shallow. Events like these help us come together and get to know our neighbors. They help us build our community by getting to know each other as friends and neighbors, caring about each other, looking out for each other and for our community. We will always have challenges, but together we can build a strong support for keeping our community close.



Small and Simple Grant

The Small and Simple Grant Fund is a partnership between the City of Bloomington and the neighborhoods. The City supplies cash for a neighborhood project and the neighborhood matches the City's contribution with volunteer labor, donated materials, professional services and cash.

The Small and Simple Grant Fund provides neighborhoods with the opportunity to initiate projects that require \$1,000 or less. It has been designed so neighborhoods can obtain funds to further their development, growth and community - building activities. The process has been made very simple to make it easy for neighborhoods to participate.

2006 Application Dates

Monday, February 20

Monday, April 24

Monday, June 19

For an application (www.bloomington.in.gov/hand) or for more information, please contact Vickie Provine, Program Manager at 349-3505 or provinev@bloomington.in.gov

Neighborhood Watch Workshop



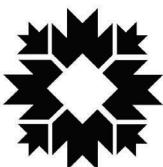
The City of Bloomington Police Department will host a Neighborhood Watch community workshop on December 8, 2005, at 7p.m. The meeting will take place at Police Headquarters, 220 East Third St.

The primary focus of this workshop will be to bring together all of the neighborhood representatives at one time so that along with representatives of the Police Department ,we can establish priorities and set goals for 2006 and beyond.

Topics of discussion will include a look at current trends neighborhoods are experiencing, the police response to such issues, plus alternative solutions to those problems. We also will study the current neighborhood watch reporting system in regard to improving communications among the neighborhoods, Police Department and other agencies that must come together to solve community issues.

We hope you all can join us so that together we can chart a path for the Neighborhood Watch Program and attempt to address community problems and quality of life issues proactively.

For more information contact Scott Oldham, City of Bloomington Police Department at 349-2854 or oldhams@bloomington.in.gov



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Housing and Neighborhood Development
P.O. Box 100
Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: 812-349-3505
Fax: 812-349-3582
Email: hand@bloomington.in.gov

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calling HAND at 349-3420*